

Poverty in Our Community

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Presentation Overview

1. About San Diego Hunger Coalition
2. Prevalence of Food Insecurity
3. Cause of Food Insecurity
4. Working toward a Hunger Free San Diego

About San Diego Hunger Coalition (SDHC)

SDHC Mission

The San Diego Hunger Coalition

leads coordinated action

to end hunger in San Diego County

supported by research, education and advocacy.

SDHC Approach

- **Training and technical assistance** for nonprofits, school districts, healthcare systems and government agencies to increase participation in CalFresh and school meal programs.
- **Educate providers, policymakers and the public** about the root causes of hunger and most promising solutions.
- **Advocate for legislative and administrative policy change** to end hunger and increase access to healthy food.
- **Provide research and leadership** to build a more effective and interconnected system of food assistance resources.

*** No Direct Service.***

SDHC Programs & Collaborations



CalFresh Outreach Program
CalFresh Task Force



School Meals Program
Summer Meals Task Force



Public Policy & Advocacy
Hunger Advocacy Network



Hunger Free San Diego
HFSD Advisory Board

Prevalence of Food Insecurity

What is Food Insecurity?

Not always having **enough** food
for an **active, healthy** life.

Food Insecurity in San Diego County

485,000 people → **1 in 6**

Enough to fill Qualcomm Stadium **almost 7 times.**



Food Insecurity in San Diego County

170,000 children → **1 in 4**

Enough to fill Qualcomm Stadium **2 1/2** times.



Poverty & Food Insecurity in South Region

Location	Population	< 100% FPL	# People < 100% FPL	< 150% FPL	# People < 150% FPL
Chula Vista	115,677	18.7%	21,632	31.8%	36,785
National City	59,019	24.4%	14,401	40.1%	23,667
South Bay	137,159	18.6%	25,512	32.6%	44,714
Sweetwater	146,021	6.9%	10,075	11.3%	16,500
San Diego County	3,192,457	14.7%	469,291	24.0%	766,190



Likely food insecure

Cause of Food Insecurity

Insufficient Income

~~Poverty~~ is Cause of Hunger in U.S.



Unemployed



\$12/hour → \$25K/year

2016 Federal Poverty Level Guidelines

Persons in Household	Yearly Income	Monthly Income	Scenario
1	\$ 11,770	\$981	\$10/hour avg 22 hours/week
2	\$ 15,930	\$1,328	
3	\$ 20,090	\$1,674	
4	\$ 24,250	\$2,021	\$11.65/hour 1 earner full-time
5	\$ 28,410	\$2,368	
6	\$ 32,570	\$2,714	
7	\$ 36,730	\$3,061	
8	\$ 40,890	\$3,408	

What's wrong with the FPL guidelines?

- 1) 1960's methodology
- 2) Multiplies cost of food x 3
- 3) Does not factor in cost of housing, child care, healthcare, transportation or regional variations.

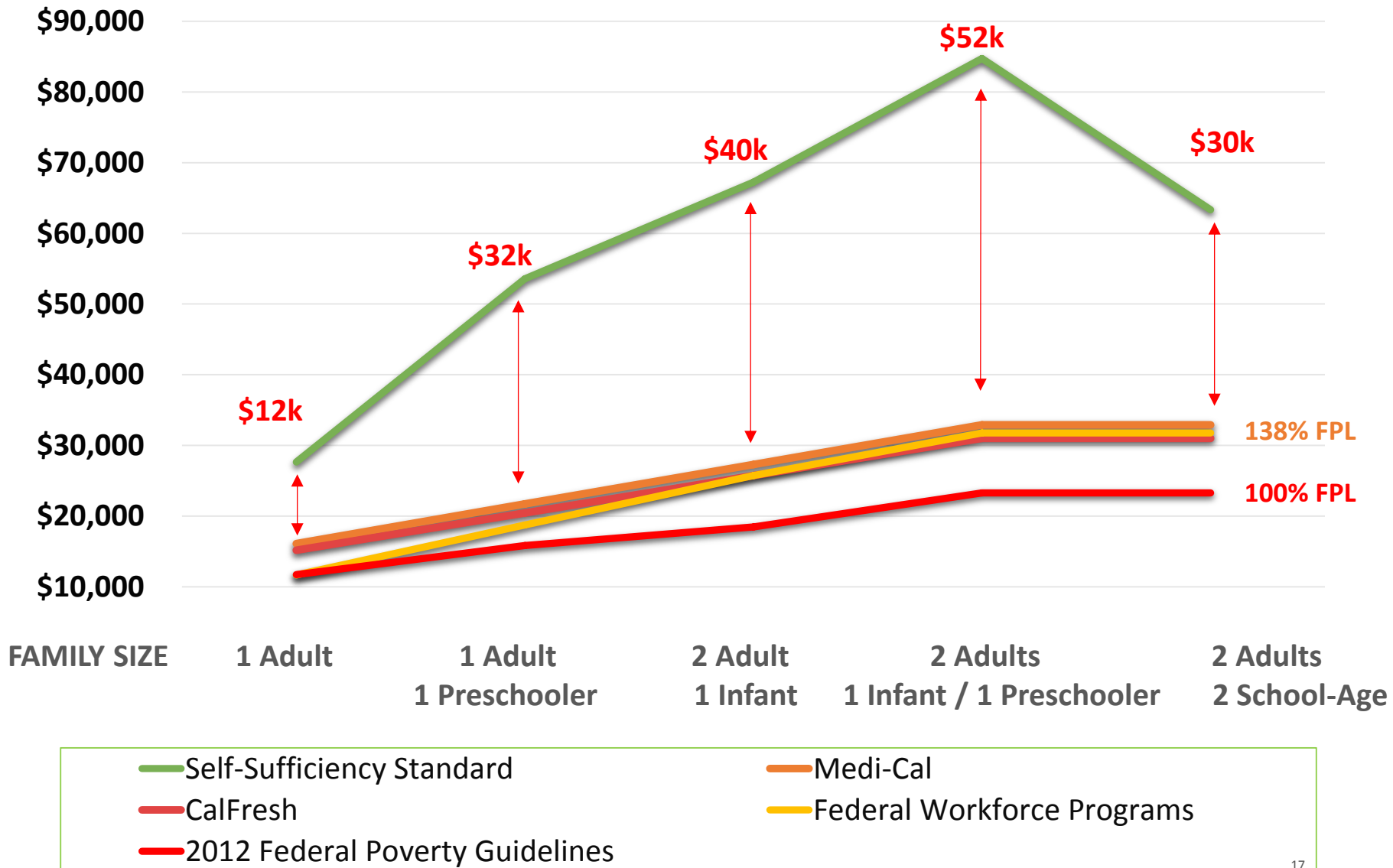
Self-Sufficiency Standard for San Diego

Self-Sufficiency Standard for San Diego Monthly Costs	1 Adult (1)	1 Adult + Preschooler (2)	2 Adults + Infant (3)	2 Adults + Infant + Preschooler (4)
Housing	\$1,032	\$1,354	\$1,354	\$1,354
Child Care	\$0	\$1,003	\$1,293	\$2,297
Food	\$270	\$410	\$655	\$771
Transportation	\$290	\$299	\$567	\$567
Health Care	\$137	\$398	\$456	\$466
Miscellaneous	\$173	\$346	\$432	\$545
Taxes	\$402	\$788	\$982	\$1,328
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	\$0	(\$50)	(\$50)	(\$100)
Child Tax Credit (-)	\$0	(\$83)	(\$83)	(\$167)
TOTAL needed monthly	\$2,305	\$4,465	\$5,606	\$7,062
Hourly wage needed per adult working full-time	\$13.09	\$25.37	\$15.93 ea	\$20.06 ea
Yearly household income needed	\$27,655	\$53,580	\$67,277	\$84,739
2012 Poverty Guidelines	\$11,720	\$15,825	\$18,480	\$23,283
SSS % of FPL	236%	339%	364%	364%

37%
of all households
fell below
200% FPL
in 2014

Poverty Trap:

Gap between self-sufficiency & benefits eligibility



San Diego Self-Sufficiency

Households below self-sufficiency by race/ethnicity:

<u>Latino</u>	<u>59%</u>
<u>Black</u>	<u>42%</u>
<u>Asian/Pacific Islander</u>	<u>31%</u>
<u>White</u>	<u>29%</u>

Why Can't San Diegans Make Ends Meet?

- **5% unemployment rate doesn't tell full story**
 - Doesn't include underemployed, part-time, or not looking
 - Economy is recovering, but not producing good jobs
 - 17% of workers have unstable work schedules
 - 40% of jobs in low wage industries
- **Living wage jobs are limited and highly competitive**
 - Large unskilled labor force lacking adult basic education and soft skills
 - Few programs addressing middle skills gap
 - Significantly advancing self-sufficiency takes 3-5 years and can cost \$5,000-10,000 per person per year
- **High cost of living – San Diego 6th most expensive metro region**
 - Lack of public transportation & affordable child care
 - Shortage of affordable housing (8-10 year wait list)



Prioritization: Food Security or Poverty?



Hunger is a barrier to self-sufficiency

- Constant stress of not having enough food.
- Can't afford less income while pursuing education or training.
- Affects children's ability to focus in school and achieve in school, leading to lower grades and graduation rates.
- Not enough food can lead to crime (e.g., stealing, prostitution).
- Food assistance is an employment support.

Working Toward a Hunger Free San Diego

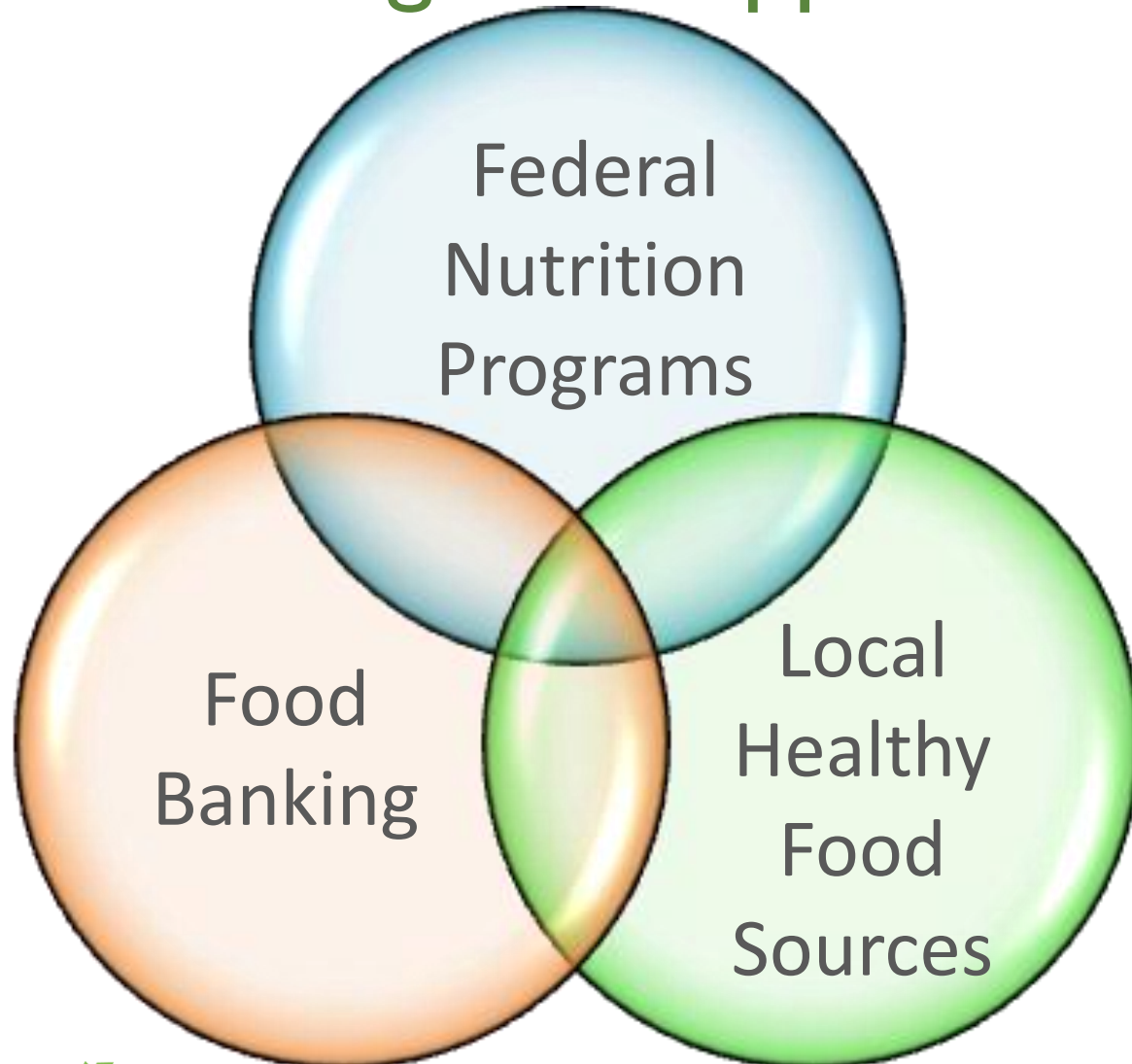
What is a *Hunger Free San Diego*?

Whenever anyone experiences a time of food insecurity:

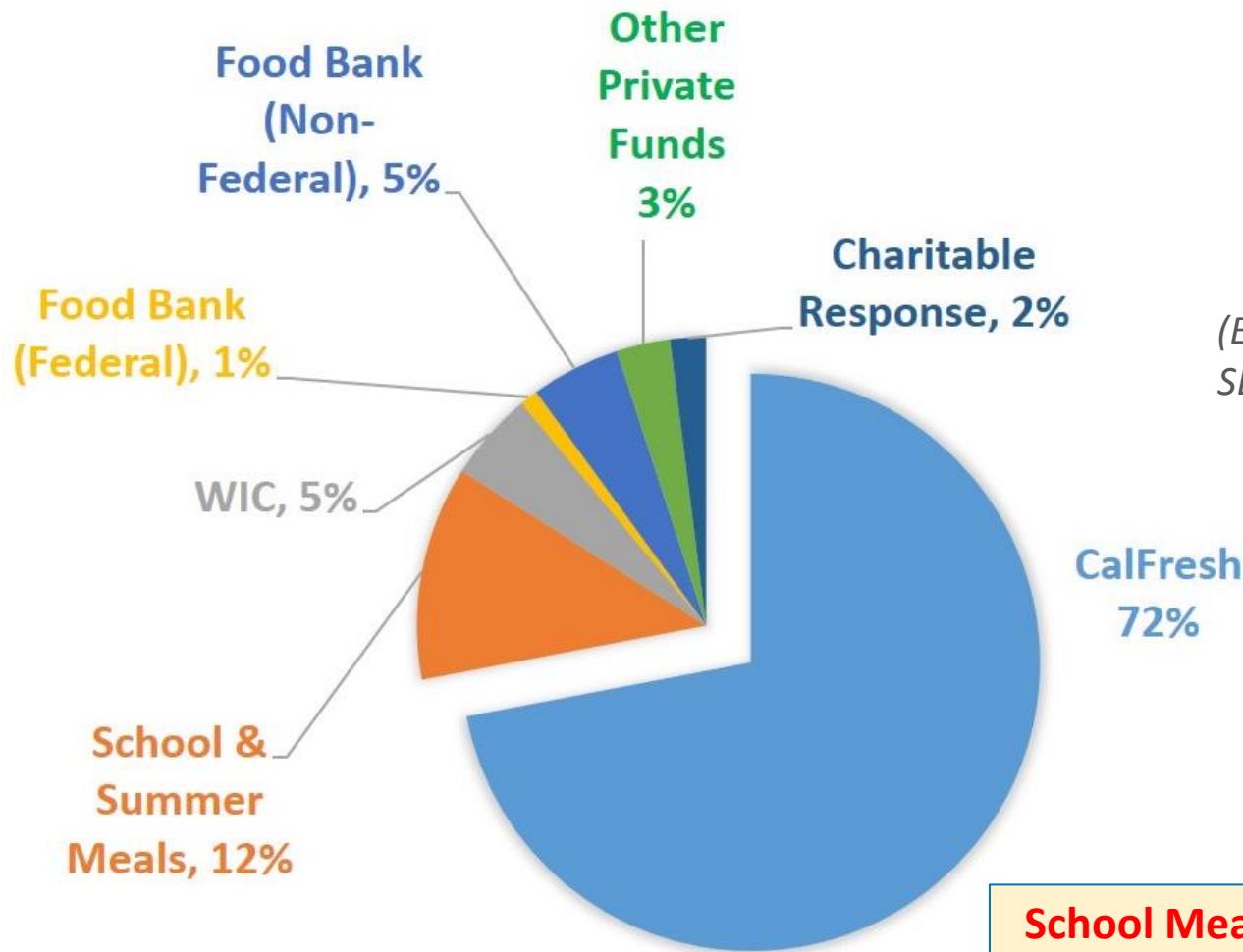
1. They can readily access timely, adequate, and appropriate assistance, and
2. That assistance is sufficient to see them safely through their time of need.

*** Food security does address the root causes of hunger.***

Requires an Integrated Approach



Power of Federal Programs



Sources of food assistance

(Example from Indianapolis. SDHC working on producing San Diego data.)

School Meals + CalFresh + WIC = 89%

Power of Federal Nutrition Programs



Food Recovery vs. CalFresh

Waste Not OC

2014 – 2016 (est. 2+ years)

350.5 tons = 710,000 lbs.

Pounds to meals = 1.64



427,439 meals
(213,719/year)

CalFresh in SD County

2015 (1 year)

\$483,043,480 in benefits

Cash to meals = \$2.56



188,692,766 meals
per year

Strategies: Federal Programs

- **Increase CalFresh enrollment**
 - Increase awareness of the program; bust the myths; and connect people to application assistance
- **Expand school meal programs**
 - Breakfast after the Bell – increases participation
 - Afterschool “supper” programs
 - Summer meals served where kids already are
- **Support advocacy to:**
 - Increase federal reimbursements for school meals
 - Make it easier to enroll in CalFresh/SNAP benefits

Strategies: Food Distribution

- A donation of \$1 can purchase \$12 of food through bigger food banks.
- Support agencies that purchase in bulk and don't pay retail prices.
- Support agencies that connect people served to additional resources, such as CalFresh, for ongoing support.
- Invest in infrastructure to be able to provide healthier food (e.g., coolers).
- Volunteer to create a new food distribution in partnership with San Diego Food Bank or Feeding San Diego

Thank you for your time today!

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